

REMARKS

I. Rejection under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 3-5, 21-24 and 26 are allowed. Claims 6-13 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Buchalter, U.S. Patent No. 3, 896,807. Although claims 5-10, 21-24 and 26 had been objected to, and, in the previous office action, had been indicated as allowable if rewritten as independent claims that incorporate the subject matter of the rejected claim and any intervening claims, the Examiner has, on reconsideration of the Buchalter patent, maintained the rejection of claims 6-13 in the present office action. Nevertheless, the Examiner also has indicated that claims 6-13 would be allowable if rewritten as independent claims that incorporate the subject matter of the rejected claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants still believe the Examiner's position to be untenable, particularly with respect to the Examiner's statement that "when the composition is combined with the water then the composition would have a low-viscosity", which statement is entirely unsupported. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the application, the Applicants have cancelled claim 6, and have rewritten claims 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 in independent form. Claim 8 depends from allowable independent claim 7 and claim 12 depends from allowable independent claim 11. Claims 7-13 are therefore now believed to be allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is requested. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

CONCLUSION

For the reason stated above, the present claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and prompt issuance of a notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that discussion will resolve any outstanding issues.

A petition and the requisite fee for extension of time for two months are being submitted concurrently with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 18, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia R. Miller", written over a horizontal line.

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